

DEAD ONES' DEEDS WEARYING PUBLIC

Fitzsimmons, Sharkey, Maher, Choyinski, Et Al. Should Be Suppressed.

GAINS GOOD MODEL FOR JACK JOHNSON

Did More Than All the Reformers to Get Negroes Square Deal.

By THOMAS S. RICE.

Reading newspapers is a business with us and we have to pay some special attention to sporting pages in order to draw our weekly wages, but we wish we could get a job digging ditches or editing the advice to mothers' column for the next season or two in order to be spared the agony of reading challenges from Bob Fitzsimmons, Tom Sharkey, Joe Choyinski, Peter Maher and such like, to Jack Johnson.

It is cruel to the public and the sporting editors for the press associations to carry that line of junk, and the telephone companies would be debarrassed by being spared the agony of carrying the messages. Tom Sharkey and Bob Fitzsimmons are the best specialists at this gag of breaking into the limelight to announce that they are willing to pit their broken ribs and hands and decrepit frames against any young heavyweight who shows signs of developing into a champion. They are always hobnobbing with fierce deils, and they get by most beautifully in those lights without which the entire world would be in outer darkness—the New York newspapers, especially the afternoon editions.

Wearisome Yarns.

When it is remembered that Fitzsimmons has a show on the road and Sharkey owns a saloon in New York which seems to be a favorite haunt for some of the best dreamers in the city, we begin to get an inkling of the real state of affairs, but it certainly gets on the nerves.

Of course, as soon as it was learned that Johnson had beaten Burns in fourteen rounds in Sydney, Australia, on December 26, some enterprising faker sent out a story to the effect that Jim Jeffries would fight one more time to get the championship back for the white race. That made us as tired as the University of Michigan professor's attack on the eligibility of the Pennsylvania football team after Penn had made the eleven of his dear old college look like a lot of chumps.

Now, equally of course, we have a statement from Jeffries denying the story that he would re-enter the ring. We must give Jeffries credit for showing more decency and judgment than any other light champion in recent years. When he got out of the ring there was absolutely no one in sight who had even the bare right to challenge him, and the fact that Johnson has beaten a second-rate fighter like Burns leaves him the same position he was before.

Jeffries Out of It.

There will naturally be a lot of slop-soup written about it being up to Jeffries to meet the negro, but aside from all questions of color, that will be in your hand, and if Jeffries accedes to the incessant demands of the yellow papers that he go against Johnson he will sacrifice the standing he has with all clean people in sports. He will simply prove himself a money-grubber and hippodromer of the Tommy Burns type, something of which no one has been able to accuse him so far.

Jeffries is thirty-three years old—not very old, it is true, but he is a huge man in every way, and it is kind of naturally become very fat and grooves after they quit training, and when a man of his build stays out of training as long as he has, there is not the slightest chance in a thousand that he can condition himself again. He might think himself as good as ever, and he might beat Johnson in an ordinary strength test, but he would not be there with the nimble foot, the fast boxing, and the ability to stand the gaff.

Let Johnson Study Gans.

Johnson, a negro, won the title fairly and squarely, as far as we can learn, by cutting Burns to pieces. The expected howl came from Burns for another bout, but there is not the slightest reason in the world to think that Burns would be as long in another try with his conqueror as he did on December 26. Presuming the last fight were on the level, which it seems to have been, Burns showed nothing worthy of a return match at this time.

The battle was true to paper form, but both men were in so bad a way that honest sporting men that nobody on this continent, where they were so well known, had the slightest confidence in them. We are not ready to Johnson for winning as decisively as he did, and only hope he will not fall for the proposition to come back to get from the lead-pipe and first-past-the-post workers.

In his actions he had better take a leaf out of the book of Joe Gans, a negro and a Jew, and subject to much bitter prejudice, by his quiet, reserved deportment and careful regard for the feelings of others, made himself thousands of friends in places where in former days his white opponent was always loudly cheered upon delivering a good blow simply because the white man seemed to be getting the better of it. By his manner and conduct, Gans, the prizefighter, did more to help the negroes to get a square deal from the American public than all the negro preachers and New England fanatics have done in twenty years.

Arouse Race Prejudice.

The writer has never had a great deal of use for white fighters who have fought them before, who drew the color line as soon as a dangerous negro appeared. On the other hand, he has never believed that whites and blacks should be matched in the prize ring. Racial prejudice comes to the front in such contests in a violent manner, and they do no good. Two or three times he has been at boxing matches in Philadelphia when clever negro boys were matched against white athletes, and the exhibitions of race prejudice furnished by the frenzied spectators of both colors were absolutely terrifying. This arousing of latent fires is a great broad problem needing much more attention and study than it has received, and the average run of boxing promoters is from a class incapable of considering the ethical side of any question.

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HARNESS HORSE GOSSIP FROM DISTRICT STABLES

Road Driving Keeping Many Good Steeds in Trim. Lack of Speedway Proving Great Deterrent to Important Industry.

By L. D. SALE.

Charles McDermott is driving on the road the trotter Mercury, 2:19½, which he raced carefully in matinee contests last season.

John O. Gheen, of Mt. Pleasant, so long connected with the trotting interests of the city, has temporarily, at least, gone over to the high steppers.

Clarence Moore, who recently purchased the Ray Farm, near Forest Glen, Md., may soon embark in the breeding of hackneys, trotters, and thoroughbreds.

Jacob L. Butt, of the Buttonwood Farm, Gettysburg, Pa., has sold the good sire Precursor, 2:20½, to a Mr. Wolfslager, of Waynesboro, Pa. Senator Hale (3) 2:20½, over a half-mile, rank, will take his place in the stud. Hank Hale is named after Senator Hale of Maine, and it is claimed that the colt is the champion half-mile ring trotter of 1936.

William Morris has turned out two of his trotters, but will again take them up when the roads get good. The Governor Stanford gelding Albert will be put in training the coming season.

John Morris, in his daily drives, holds the reins behind his brother Michael's sorrel gelding by Red Wilkes. The gelding has a very good way of going.

Michael Morris, of Georgetown, is in the market for a good speed prospect—a trotter—and hopes to find one of his liking in the midwinter sales.

Henry Copperthite, of Washington and of Burke, Va., contemplates erecting in the near future a hotel at the last named place for the accommodation of track people, and such other guests as may desire accommodation. The building will be under roof before the training season sets in.

Rumor is that Alonzo Corbin will train the coming season over the Easton, Md. track.

E. F. Hall has all of his trotters and paces interned at his father's farm in Virginia.

W. E. Miller has decided not to train Kusan, 2:18½, in 1937. Some of his will be trained during the coming year, as they show signs of speed.

Jacob Hillery has so well of the Red Medium, 2:24½, mare, which he purchased of E. F. Hall last spring, that he will prepare her for trotting events as soon as the season opens and give her a few races. Mr. Hillery has made a gelding of T. E. S. and will try him out during the coming season. If his manners are not improved, some one will have a chance to get a horse at his own figures.

Now that the local speedway has been abolished by the Government, horsemen on New England tracks, where the ground permits, joggling their

COLLEGE CRACKS IN NEW YEAR RUN

Excellent Talent Entered for Big Cross-Country Test Next Friday.

That there will be at least thirty-five starters in the Y. M. C. A. cross-country run on New Year morning is evident from the number of entries received until noon today. Some straggling entries which will come in tomorrow morning will probably run the total to forty, which will be the largest number of starters which have ever run in a race of this distance in the District.

The list of men already entered includes the best long-distance runners of the South Atlantic Association, with the addition of a couple of fast men from Philadelphia and Yale University. With Breyer and Griffith of Hopkins, Dunn of Yale, Woodward of the local Y. M. C. A., Connors of the Washington Grove Association, and Yeckel, of Philadelphia Y. M. C. A., on the marks, there will be some hustling for the blue ribbon honors.

Johns Hopkins University is going to make a hot fight for the team trophy. They have entered six good men, including besides Griffith and Breyer, Wolfe, Reasde, Russell, and Stockett. The last four named are all new to the cross-country game, but have been doing some good work in training. All the men on the Hopkins team came over to Washington yesterday and ran over the course. There was no attempt at racing, but all made the route with ease.

Eleven riders representing the local Y. M. C. A. will start. Woodward, Cutts, Enzor, Fraile and Winchester look best.

Western High School will have three starters and Business High four.

The race will start promptly at 10:30 o'clock, and it is expected that the last man to finish will have crossed the line before noon.

MEN GET "BLOW OUT."

L. V. Hysam, proprietor of the Belmont garage, tendered a spread to his employees last week in the form of a big supper.

All of the chauffeurs and shop men were in on the "blow out," and with the spread and an excellent program afforded spent an enjoyable evening. At the conclusion of the festivity Hysam was presented with a handsome silver cup by his men.

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RECORDS MAY FALL AT THE G. W. MEET

Planned Ten-Lap Track Should Make Going Much Faster.

There will be some doings when the pistol cracks to start the George Washington University's second indoor meet on February 13.

Coming as it does, right in the middle of the indoor season, when the men are all in the best of shape, and with the class of entries already promised, it should rank as one of the best meets ever pulled off in Washington. All the colleges south of the Mason and Dixon line have been invited to participate, and many have already signified their intention of sending teams. Manager Newhouse has also secured a select list of Southern athletes.

A number of Northern attractions will also be on card. At least four Olympic stars, one of them a double winner, and holder of two Olympic records, will start in the 100-yard dash.

Charles Weaver, of West Washington, attracted a good deal of attention these days with the handsome gelding which he recently traded for with J. C. Mott. The gelding has a very attractive way of going, being very trappy in action, and could be made a good park animal.

Dr. Ashworth thinks he has in Harry Harding and General Sale, the former a pacer by Don Cazine, 2:16 and the latter a trotter by General Beale, 2:20½, two of the most promising two-year-olds in the District. Both will be trained over the Copperthite track, Burke, in 1937.

August Braide, of the East End, has decided to place his stallion up El Capitolino into the hands of some good trainer either in this city or Baltimore.

Senator Joseph W. Bailey, of Texas, has shipped all of his purchases at the recent Madison Square Garden sale to his farm near Lexington, Ky.

The McHenry Brothers of this city, who purchased last summer of the late Washington Naylor the bay gelding Country Jake for a small sum, think they have in the son of Mars a 2:30 or better troter. He showed his ability at the Hagerstown fair last fall to trot 2:25 after only a few weeks' training.

George Goodere recently sold his two-year-old stud colt by Mars to a man residing in Forestville, Md. The horses he intends to race in 1937 are El Balle, 2:24½, May Queen, 2:25, and Red Rock, 2:24½.

Charles C. Waters, of Germantown, Md., will be out in 1937 with the largest string of Kinsters in the history of the farm.

D. J. McCarthy thinks so well of his Wilkes-Virginia Maid filly that he has decided to train her next season. She is a square trotter with a lot of nerve force. At present Mr. McCarthy is driving her on the road.

In addition to the stallion which Henry Copperthite purchased last spring, Mr. Copperthite will put in training a three-year-old by Beausant, 2:26½. While Beausant is a pacer, the filly is a trotter.

Harry Bowling, who has been active in local turf matters for many years, is wintering in Prince George county.

James Neil, a well-known trotting horse fancier, has for some days been on the sick list.

James Byrnes of Capitol Hill is using his 2:15 trotter to wagon, by a son of Norval, on the road.

A. E. Brooke, who in past years always managed to have a horse in his stable that could go some, has become a devotee of the taxicab.

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COMMISSION TO REOPEN TICKET SCANDAL CASE

Little Strife Between Murphy and Herrmann Promises to Give Public Some Definite Facts About Big Box Office Case.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 27.—Chairman

Garry Herrmann, of the National Commission, has thrown down the gauntlet to President Charley Murphy, of the Chicago club, and has told the Chubby One he can have the ticket scalping case reopened.

Herrmann thinks the Chicago president has tried to put the commission in a bad light by his many letters and criticisms since the decision was handed down, and in order to squelch Murphy effectively suggests that the case be reopened during the spring meetings of the big leagues in Chicago. In February, the owner of the Cubs, after promising to be good and let the matter drop, was unable to withstand the call of the type-writer or to keep his resolution, and the yesterday cut loose with a fierce blast, accusing the members of the National

Commission of the grossest favoritism and recommending that Chairman Herrmann remove his office to St. Petersburg, Russia, or some equally distant place.

Herrmann will not make Murphy's letter public, but says he has replied to it, and offered to have the case reopened.

If Murphy accepts Herrmann's challenge there will be some fine testimony to present to the league's steering committee about how that precious sale was conducted, and the trouble that the Chicago fans had in getting seats on account of the kick-sawtooth methods used by the Chicago club.

Herrmann, as a club owner, thinks that Murphy's last letter to the National Commission regarding the ticket scandal is vindictive and insulting, in that Murphy endeavors to foist on the commission the trouble into which his club was carried by the carelessness of the Chicago players.

Bontz Ousts Collins From the Lead In Down-And-Out Bowling Tourney

There has been much activity on the Palace alleys during Christmas and the half holiday preceding it, with the result that there have been many shifts in the standing of the large entries for qualifying scores in the "Down and Out" tournament.

Collins, late of the Capitola, the Saengerbunde, the Warriors and the Carrolls, led for many days, and made a game fight to retain the leadership, but he has failed to better his low score of 225 during the past three days. His lead was always by a small margin, and it was hardly to be expected that one against an army of crack bowlers could hope to maintain a continuous lead.

Bontz, last year's champion of the District League, and "anchor" this season on the Potomacs, has been gradually climbing up the ladder in the tourney, and only needed two or three good games to oust Collins and others from their berth. He got them Christmas and yesterday, rolling games of 23, 29 and 258, which jumped him from eighth place to the leadership of the bunch. He now heads Collins with a margin of thirty-one pins. His 23 game is the highest bowled in the tournament, excepting Augustus's 286.

Harwood, of the Treasury team, has made the best showing, games of 255 and 247 pushing him from nineteenth to seventh place. This is the biggest jump of the bunch.

Waters, Fritz, and Lemmon have been pushed out of the qualifying list of sixteen, and Harwood and Ryerson have climbed in the wagon.

Crist, Hammer, Ludwig, and Lee have some excellent games, and a good chance to qualify for the final.

Morris and Hunt stand eighth and ninth on the list. "The Two Cousins" have clung together from the start.

Pin. G. L. G. Ave.
Bontz..... 232 273 229
Collins..... 231 266 225 226
Barker..... 228 278 221 224
Parker..... 226 278 228 228
Miller..... 220 254 223 221
Harwood..... 228 247 224 229
Ryerson..... 229 286 225 222
Morris..... 222 226 215 222
Hunt..... 222 227 219 223
Ricketts..... 226 249 212 221
Augustus..... 233 244 177 229
McLennan..... 212 246 204 219
Brennan..... 218 267 204 219
Ricketts..... 218 267 204 219
Ryerson..... 2179 222 207 218
Hartman..... 2172 228 204 223

ANOTHER MANAGER AFTER BILL BURNS

Somers and Kilfoyl May Offer \$10,000 for Washington Southpaw.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 27.—The New York Americans will have spirited competition in their bidding for Bill Burns, the Senatorial southpaw. The Naps long have been seeking for a reliable left-hander and are prepared to go the limit to get such a man.

Somers and Kilfoyl, the Cleveland owners, have no players they care to turn over to Washington for Burns but think an offer of \$10,000 will land the left-hander. While Cantillon is sore at the Cleveland owners, President Noyes is understood to be friendly to them, and Somers and Kilfoyl think they stand a good chance of landing their quarry, particularly as their offer will set a record for the American League.

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Nineteen hundred eight is history; Nineteen nine is yet a mystery; May the friendships of the past be ever dear! The best that we can wish you, Or from the punch bowl dish you— Is "A brighter and happier New Year."

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